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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

APPLICANT: Thomas Vogl  
SERIAL NO.: 09/675,343 • GROUP ART UNIT: 2623  
DATE FILED: September 28, 2000  
INVENTION: "METHOD FOR RECOGNIZING AND  
AVOIDING ETCH-CRITICAL REGIONS"

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Technology Center 2600

S I R:

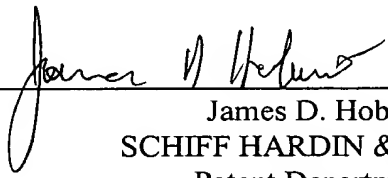
In accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that a citation and examination of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 be made during the course of the examination of the above-identified application.

**R E M A R K S**

Applicant's attorneys have received German 196 31 160 and pages from Handbuch der Leiterplattentechnik as examples of standard technique. From a search, U.S. Patent No. 5,885,748, which claims priority from the same Japanese Application as German 196 31 160, was located. Copies of these three references are attached herewith. It is noted that the undersigned does not have or know of translations of the pages from the handbook.

Since these references are being submitted before any action on the merits has been received, it is respectfully submitted that no government fee is required for the Examiner to consider these references.

Respectfully submitted,


 (Reg. No. 24,149)  
James D. Hobart  
SCHIFF HARDIN & WAITE  
Patent Department  
6600 Sears Tower  
233 South Wacker Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
Telephone: (312) 258-5781  
Customer Number 26574

DATED: March 30, 2001

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on March 30, 2001.

James D. Hobart  
Name of Applicant's Attorney

  
Signature

March 30, 2001  
Date